From: Craig Kreman [ckreman@quapawnation.com]

Sent: 7/31/2020 7:17:09 PM

To: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]
Subject: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

Attachments: ATT00001.txt

Randy,

We have been talking at NTAA about having a webinar around the decision from the McGirt case. Do you know of anyone in R6 that would be willing to talk to the decision?

I know we have Regional Counsel representation talk at the RTOC Meeting last week. I wonder if they would be willing to do the same thing for an NTAA webinar.

Thanks,

Craig Kreman, P.E. Environmental Engineer Quapaw Nation

From: Craig Kreman [ckreman@quapawnation.com]

Sent: 8/13/2020 2:28:55 PM

To: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]

CC: Childers, Pat [Childers.Pat@epa.gov]; Alvarado, Tina [Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov]

Subject: RE: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

That is great! Thanks for helping out with this update!

From: Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov> Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 9:24 AM

To: Craig Kreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com>

Cc: Childers, Pat <Childers.Pat@epa.gov>; Alvarado, Tina <Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

Good morning Craig,

Pat Childers is getting with Andy Bessler on the McGirt update. Wanted to make sure you are in the loop.

Randy

From: Craig Kreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com>

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 3:06 PM **To:** Gee, Randy Gee_Randy@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

We don't have a date set yet. Let me do some checking and get back with you.

And I just found out that this would be a joint webinar between NTAA and National Tribal Water Council.

Thanks

From: Gee, Randy < Gee.Randy@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:57 PM

To: Craig Kreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com Subject: RE: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

Craig- is there a date for the webinar? Tina said she could participate.

Randy

From: Gee, Randy

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:20 PM

To: ckreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com >

Subject: Re: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

Dropped the ball Craig; checking now.

Randy

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 10, 2020, at 1:48 PM, Craig Kreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com> wrote: Randy, Were you able to check in with Tina Alvarado on the request concerning the NTAA webinar on the McGirt case? Thanks From: Gee, Randy < Gee. Randy@epa.gov> Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 2:44 PM To: Craig Kreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com> Subject: RE: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case Hello Craig, I can check with Tina Alvarado who is our tribal law attorney. On another note, is Joseph Byrd now the Chairman for Quapaw Nation? We are updating our tribal contact list and didn't know when his term would start. Have a good weekend. Randy From: Craig Kreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com> Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 2:17 PM To: Gee, Randy < Gee. Randy @epa.gov > Subject: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case Randy, We have been talking at NTAA about having a webinar around the decision from the McGirt case. Do you know of anyone in R6 that would be willing to talk to the decision? I know we have Regional Counsel representation talk at the RTOC Meeting last week. I wonder if they would be willing to do the same thing for an NTAA webinar. Thanks, Craig Kreman, P.E. **Environmental Engineer** Quapaw Nation



From: Cynthia Naha [cnaha@kewa-nsn.us]

Sent: 7/21/2020 7:07:20 PM

To: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Revised Agenda for Tomorrow

Attachments: ATT00001.txt; July Virtual RTOC Meeting Agenda_FULL CAUCUS_July 22 2020 (revised).pdf

I pdf'd it and its ready to be sent out.

Respectfully,
Cynthia Naha, Director
Santo Domingo Tribe
Office: (505)465-0055

Fax: (505)465-0056 Cell: (505)382-1616

Who will find peace with the lands? The future of humankind lies waiting for those who will come to understand their lives and take up their responsibilities to all living things. Who will listen to the trees, the animals and birds, the voices of the places of the land? As the long-forgotten peoples of the respective continents rise and begin to reclaim their ancient heritage, they will discover the meaning of the lands of their ancestors. That is when the invaders of the North American continent will finally discover that for this land, God is red.

VINE DELORIA, JR., GOD Is RED 296 (2003).

From: Gee, Randy < Gee.Randy@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Cynthia Naha < cnaha@kewa-nsn.us>
Subject: Revised Agenda for Tomorrow

[External Sender]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Santo Domingo Email System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Del Beaver [dbeaver@mcn-nsn.gov]

Sent: 8/19/2020 3:30:26 PM

To: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]; David Hill [dhill@mcn-nsn.gov]; jwilliams@mcn-nsn.gov

CC: Hicks, Curtis [hicks.curtis@epa.gov]

Subject: RE: Consultation

Good morning Randy,

Anita should be getting back with you about the dates. I think the 25th is going to be the best date. Expect something soon.

Del

From: Gee, Randy [mailto:Gee.Randy@epa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 4:27 PM

To: David Hill <dhill@mcn-nsn.gov>; Del Beaver <dbeaver@mcn-nsn.gov>; James Williams <JWilliams@MCN-NSN.gov>

Cc: Hicks, Curtis < hicks.curtis@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Consultation

Good afternoon everyone,

I received dates and time for next week.

8/25 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm 8/26 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

If these dates or the September 2 date don't work, I can get back with our scheduler.

Thank you,

Randy Gee

EPA Region 6 Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment

Office Phone: 214-665-8355

From: Gee, Randy

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:26 PM

To: 'David Hill' <dhill@mcn-nsn.gov>; 'Del Beaver' <dbeaver@mcn-nsn.gov>; jwilliams@mcn-nsn.gov

Cc: Curtis Hicks < Hicks. Curtis@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Consultation

Good afternoon,

Would Wednesday, September 2 from 2-3pm be available for the tribal consultation conference call? Our scheduler is working on other possible dates.

Thanks,

Randyu

From: Gee, Randy

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 4:05 PM

To: David Hill <dhill@mcn-nsn.gov>; Del Beaver <dbeaver@mcn-nsn.gov>; jwilliams@mcn-nsn.gov; Curtis Hicks

Subject: RE: Consultation

Thank you Principal Chief Hill, Second Chief Beaver and James for today's call on planning the tribal consultation on the SAFETEA impact on the Nation's reservation. Please see the attached documents for the consultation.

Curtis and I will get dates and times to coordinate with your schedules for the tribal consultation call.

Randy Gee

EPA Region 6 Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment

Office Phone: 214-665-8355

From: Del Beaver <dbeaver@mcn-nsn.gov>

Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 8:23 AM

To: Gee, Randy < Gee. Randy@epa.gov >
Cc: David Hill < dhill@mcn-nsn.gov >

Subject: Consultation

Good morning Mr. Gee,

I hope all is well at the EPA. As you know the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and all of Indian Country, experienced a historic win with the ruling of the McGirt case. The Muscogee Nation would like to formally request a consultation meeting for an explanation of how the SAFETEA Act affects our reservation. If you could either forward our request to the appropriate person or let me know who to contact I would appreciate it. Mvto and have a good day.

Del Beaver

From: Gomez, Salina [Gomez.Salina@epa.gov]

Sent: 8/18/2020 4:55:08 PM

To: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]

Subject: RE: 508 Compliance

Attachments: SAFETEA.OklahomaRequest.2020.7.22.pdf; SAFETEA Section 10211.docx

Randy, please see attached 508 complaint. Thank you

From: Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov> **Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2020 10:52 AM **To:** Gomez, Salina <Gomez.Salina@epa.gov>

Subject: 508 Compliance

Salina- could you review for 508 compliance?

Thanks,

Randy Gee

EPA Region 6 Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment

Office Phone: 214-665-8355

SEC.10211. ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS.

(a) OKLAH01\1A.- Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this section as the "Administr ator") determines that a regulatory program submitted by the State of Oklahoma for approval by the Administrator under a law administered by the Administrator meets applicable requirements of the law, and the Administrator approves the State to administer the State program under the law, with respect to areas in the State that are not Indian country, on request of the Sta te, the Administrator shall approve the State to administer the State program in the areas of the State that are in Indian country, without any further dem-onstration of aut hority by the State.

(b) TREATMENT AS STATE-. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may treat an Indian tribe in the State of Oklahoma as a State under a law administered by the Adminis-

trator only if -

(1) the Indian tribe meets requirements under the law

to be treated as a State; and

(2) the Indian tribe and the agency of the State of Oklahoma with federally delegated program authority enter into a cooperative agreement, subject to review and approval of the Administrator after notice and opportunity for public hearin g, under which the Indian tribe and that State agency agree to treatment of the Indian tribe as a State and to jointly plan administer program requirements.

From: Childers, Pat [Childers.Pat@epa.gov]

Sent: 8/17/2020 10:50:04 PM

To: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]

Subject: RE: good 1 or 2 pager on mcgirt current status do yiu have one? EOM

Thanks this is helpful.

From: Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:12 PM
To: Childers, Pat <Childers.Pat@epa.gov>
Cc: Alvarado, Tina <Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: good 1 or 2 pager on mcgirt current status do yiu have one? EOM

Hello Pat,

This is our sheet we used to brief our RA for the Muscogee SAFETEA tribal consultation.

Randy

From: Childers, Pat < Childers.Pat@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:31 PM
To: Gee, Randy < Gee.Randy@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: good 1 or 2 pager on mcgirt current status do yiu have one? EOM

Hey Randy

Hope you are well. Do you have a good overview internal one or two pager on mcgirt and safetea (or either one separately). I want to bring Betsy up to speed on issue and want to make sure I get it right.

Pat

From: Byrne, Andrew < Byrne. Andrew@epa.gov>

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 1:29 PM

To: Childers, Pat < Childers.Pat@epa.gov>; Wright, Felicia < Wright.Felicia@epa.gov> **Subject:** RE: good 1 or 2 pager on mcgirt current status do yiu have one? EOM

Hey Pat – sorry, we haven't created or receiving anything like this in the past month. Try OGC?

Andy Byrne

American Indian Environmental Office Office of International and Tribal Affairs U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (202) 564-3836 (desk) (202) 322-8607 (mobile)

Creating Tangible Environmental Results with Tribes Find out more at www.epa.gov/tribal

From: Childers, Pat < Childers.Pat@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:09 PM

To: Byrne, Andrew < Byrne. Andrew@epa.gov>; Wright, Felicia < Wright. Felicia@epa.gov>

Subject: good 1 or 2 pager on mcgirt current status do yiu have one? EOM

From: Alvarado, Tina [Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov]

Sent: 8/17/2020 9:39:48 PM

To: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]; melissarobinson@choctawnation.com

CC: tbaker@choctawnation.com

Subject: RE: Conference Call

That works. I'm available tomorrow after 2:00 or Wednesday morning.

From: Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov> Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:39 PM

To: melissarobinson@choctawnation.com; Alvarado, Tina <Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov>

Cc: tbaker@choctawnation.com **Subject:** RE: Conference Call

Hello Melissa- tomorrow afternoon is best for me. I am available except from 330-4pm.

From: Melissa Robinson < melissarobinson@choctawnation.com >

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:35 PM

To: Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov>; Alvarado, Tina <Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov>

Cc: tbaker@choctawnation.com

Subject: Conference Call

Randy/Tina,

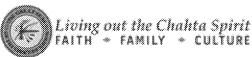
If you are available, we would like to have an informal conference call to discuss program delegation post-McGirt even in a limited capacity. Are you available tomorrow afternoon or Wednesday morning?

Yakoke,

Melissa Robinson
Director, Environmental Assessment
Environmental Protection Services
Department of Risk Management
Division of Legal and Compliance
P.O. Box 909
104 Ed Perry Road
Hugo, OK 74743

Office: 580.326.7501 Ext. 6509

Cell: 580.326.1777



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From: Wilson, Erika [Wilson.Erika@epa.gov]

Sent: 7/31/2020 7:12:48 PM

To: Benjamin, Kent [Benjamin.Kent@epa.gov]; Thomas, Latosha [Thomas.Latosha@epa.gov]; Taylor, Trish

[Taylor.Trish@epa.gov]; Colip, Matthew [colip.matthew@epa.gov]; Keller, Melanie [Keller.Melanie@epa.gov];

Vaught, Daniel [vaught.daniel@epa.gov]; Lieberman, Paige [Lieberman.Paige@epa.gov]; Berrios, Lisa [Berrios.Lisa@epa.gov]; Manges, Ellen [Manges.Ellen@epa.gov]; EPA HICS [EPA_HICS@epa.gov]; EPA RICS [RICS@epa.gov]; Lininger, Don [Lininger.Don@epa.gov]; Blackburn, Lizl [Blackburn.Lizl@epa.gov]; Samardzich, Daniel [samardzich.daniel@epa.gov]; Davis, Tina [Davis.Tina@epa.gov]; Fisseha, Ashley [Fisseha.Ashley@epa.gov]; Manville, Jennifer [manville.jennifer@epa.gov]; Caldwell, Lance [Caldwell.Lance@epa.gov]; Mandelia, Ankita [Mandelia.Ankita@epa.gov]; Jacob, Sicy [Jacob.Sicy@epa.gov]; Brown, Linda [brown.linda@epa.gov]; Jones, Luke [jones.luke@epa.gov]; Barnett, Tonya [Barnett.Tonya@epa.gov]; Barrows, Judy [Barrows.Judy@epa.gov]; Cooke,

Maryt [Cooke.Maryt@epa.gov]; Katonica, Kim [Katonica.Kim@epa.gov]; Laija, Emerald [Laija.Emerald@epa.gov];

Lentz, Rachel [Lentz.Rachel@epa.gov]; Nichols, Nick [Nichols.Nick@epa.gov]; Papasavvas, Melissa [Papasavvas.Melissa@epa.gov]; Poore, Christine [Poore.Christine@epa.gov]; Rafferty, Kathy

[Rafferty.Kathy@epa.gov]; Reddoor, Charles [Reddoor.Charles@epa.gov]; Roepe, Wayne [Roepe.Wayne@epa.gov];

Roy, Denise [Roy.Denise@epa.gov]; Van Epps, Amanda [VanEpps.Amanda@epa.gov]

Subject: OLEM Tribal Friday News Roundup - Weeks of July 20-31

Attachments: EPA.TLEF.Zoom.Instructions_FINAL-7.29.pdf; AIEO Weekly, July 23-29, 2020; Inspection Expectations for EPA Partner

Agencies During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Letter (July 22, 2020).pdf; PIA 2020 Course Catalog.pdf; 2020 PIA Flyer.pdf; NTWC Newsletter July 2020.pdf; AIEO Weekly, July 16-22, 2020; Tribal Resilience and Indigenous

Planning Series Save the Dates.pdf

Hello all

I hope you enjoy this edition of the OLEM Tribal Friday News Roundup, covering the last two weeks. Please feel free to share with your Regional and tribal colleagues. Note the internal items for EPA staff only.

Have a great weekend!

Today's Friday News Roundup Includes Information on:

- 1. EPA Supports 2020 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum; Registration Closes August 3
- 2. Instructions for Government and Agencies that May Not Be Able to Download the Zoom App
- 3. August 3 is the Deadline to Register for the virtual TLEF and to Submit Your Videos
- 4. SERC/TERC Monthly Updates Newsletter
- Tribal Resilience & Indigenous Planning Webinar and Workshop Series: Save the Dates August 12, August 24, October 1, October 8
- 6. <u>Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant competition is now open, outreach webinar on August 6</u>
- 7. HUD Lead hazard reduction grants for Tribe and communities
- 8. EPA's Contaminated Site Cleanup Information (CLU-IN) website and newsletter
- 9. ORCR SMM listserv
- 10. ORCR Solid and Hazardous Waste listserv
- 11. SERC/TERC Monthly Updates newsletter
- 12. EPA Releases Temporary Guidance Regarding Certification of Pesticide Applicators During COVID-19
- 13. Inspection Expectations for Partner Agencies During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
- 14. Announcing EPA's New Indoor Air and COVID-19 Webpage
- 15. AIEO Weekly, July 16-22, 2020 INTERNAL EPA ONLY
- 16. AIEO Weekly, July 23-29, 2020 INTERNAL EPA ONLY
- 17. EPA Announces \$4.3 Million for Tribes to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water in Schools
- 18. EPA Continues to Aggressively Address PFAS on the Federal, State, and Local Level
- 19. Registration Open: ITEP's National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference (NTICC)

- 20. <u>Invitation from the National Academy of Sciences to nominate experts for the Committee on Anticipatory</u>
 Research for EPA's Research and Development Enterprise to Inform Future Environmental Protection
- 21. Publication of the "Opportunity Zone Field Manual" and "Opportunity Zone Community Toolkit Vol. 2
- 22. Register now for 2020 (Tribal-FEMA-BIA) Partners In Action Conference | August 20-September 4
- 23. National Tribal Water Council JULY 2020 Newsletter
- 24. Register for August 6 EE2020 Webinar on ArcGIS StoryMaps!

OLEM Topics

Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF)

- 1. EPA Supports 2020 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum; Registration Closes August 3 (EPA) is pleased to announce the first virtual Tribal Lands and Environment Forum scheduled from Monday, August 17 through Thursday, August 20, 2020. We hope many tribal members across the country will take advantage of the free registration by the August 3 deadline. Read the press release.
- 2. Instructions for Government and Agencies that May Not Be Able to Download the Zoom App If you registered as working for the EPA, please take a look at the attached document which may be helpful to you regarding participating in some of the activities for the TLEF:VG 2020 (re: the native Zoom app). You may also find this document on the EVENT FAQS page at: https://tlef2020.pathable.co/event-faqs or you may find the following helpful Zoom Support: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/214629443-Zoom-web-client. Note that Chrome is the recommended browser for the interactive features of the conference.
- 3. August 3 is the Deadline to Register for the virtual TLEF and to Submit Your Videos the deadline to register for the TLEF: A Virtual Gathering is August 3. (You can visit https://tlef2020.pathable.co if you haven't already registered.) Also, we want to give you a little extra time to submit your short video for our special "virtual cultural event" this year, so we are extending the deadline for that to August 3 as well. We are accepting short (1-3 minute) videos of Native dancers, singers, musicians, farmers, story tellers, and artists of all types and ages. Since we are meeting virtually this year, we want all of you to have the chance to share with your colleagues from across the country. Please visit https://bit.ly/TLEFCulturalVideos2020 to sign up. We do ask that you then upload your video to https://bit.ly/CulturalVideoUpload no later than Monday, August 3. Please name your file with the title of the video. And if you can, please hold your phone or camera sideways/horizontally/landscape. If you are filming with an iPhone, please record your video with your camera set to record in 1080p (Settings >Camera >Record Video >1080p) for the best results. And if you are interested in reserving a "virtual booth" for this year's Multi Media Meetup, keep in mind the deadline to sign up is July 31! You can sign up at https://bit.ly/TLEFVirtualBooth2020 and reserve your spot so you can share your experiences with other attendees.

Emergency Response

4. **SERC/TERC Monthly Updates Newsletter** - EPA is transitioning to a new email newsletter system. As a result, all current subscribers must opt-in to continue to receive updates. If you do not sign up to continue to receive the SERC-TERC Monthly Updates, you will no longer receive these emails, beginning with the August 2020 Edition. Please sign up today by filling out this form: https://www.epa.gov/epcra/serc-terc-monthly-updates.

Brownfields

- 5. Tribal Resilience & Indigenous Planning Webinar and Workshop Series: Save the Dates August 12, August 24, October 1, October 8 Join KSU Tribal TAB and Partners for the Tribal Resilience and Indigenous Planning Webinar & Workshop Series. This series will explore indigenous planning, creative narratives, and brownfields resources in building more sustainable communities that are resilient to environmental, economic, and social impacts. Each part of this two-part series includes an educational webinar followed by a hands-on workshop. Participants are encouraged, though not required, to attend both the webinar and the workshop for each part of the series. Topics covered will include:
 - a. Transforming brownfields to community assets while building tribal resilience
 - b. Indigenous Planning Principles and Practices
 - c. Hands-on geospatial mapping of community assets & vulnerabilities
 - d. The importance of effectively telling your community story

- These events are free, but registration is required. Registration information will be available at www.ksutab.org/education once available.
- 6. Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant competition is now open, outreach webinar on August 6 The FY21 EWDJT RFA is now online at https://grants.gov and available to view! You can also find it on the EPA page at https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/fy-2021-environmental-workforce-development-and-job-training-ewdjt-grants-0. This solicitation will remain open for 60 days and close at 11:59 pm EST on September 22nd, 2020. To help potential applicants, there will be an outreach webinar on August 6, 2020 starting at 3:00 pm EST, where we will be discussing the RFA in detail and how to submit an application. FAQs can be found at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-07/documents/fy21 ewdit faqs.pdf.
- 7. **HUD Lead hazard reduction grants for Tribe and communities** HUD Lead Hazard reduction grants for Tribes and communities and areas with approved training providers and older housing that pose lead risks.\$285 million in grants and applications due Aug 24. https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=328297.

Listservs and Newsletters

- 8. **EPA's Contaminated Site Cleanup Information (CLU-IN) website and newsletter** provides information about innovative treatment and site characterization technologies while acting as a forum for all waste remediation stakeholders. Check out the site: https://clu-in.org/ and sign up for their newsletter: https://clu-in.org/ and sign up for their newsletter: https://clu-in.org/ in.org/techdirect/.
- 9. **ORCR SMM listserv** Join to get webinar announcements and updates. To subscribe, fill out the form here: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/TQZ645H/smm.
- 10. **ORCR Solid and Hazardous Waste listserv** Join to receive updates from EPA. To sign up, fill out the form here: https://lp.constantcontact.com/su/HcXGiWT/solidhaz.
- 11. **SERC/TERC Monthly Updates newsletter -** The purpose of the SERC-TERC Updates is to identify and share new policies, guidance, and training resources that may be useful to the State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs) and Tribal Emergency Response Commissions (TERCs). To subscribe, fill out the form here: https://www.epa.gov/epcra/serc-terc-monthly-updates.

Coronavirus

- COVID-19 EPA has released a temporary guidance regarding the certification of pesticide applicators of restricted use pesticides that offers flexibility during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Agency is aware that state, tribal and federal certifying authorities may need to make temporary changes to their existing pesticide applicator certification programs during this time. Given the evolving circumstances and the urgency involved, EPA has determined that certain temporary changes to their programs should be preapproved and may be implemented provided that they are not likely to significantly diminish applicator competence or undermine future certification activities and all conditions are met. Currently, certifying authorities can make non-substantial changes to their certification plans without prior EPA approval, but need to notify EPA within 90 days or with the required annual report, whichever occurs first. So long as such temporary changes are reported to EPA as outlined in the guidance, EPA does not intend to impose sanctions on certification programs that miss reporting deadlines specified in the CPA rule. EPA will instead accept notifications included in the annual reporting, which are due December 31, 2020. To read the temporary guidance in full, visit our webpage.
- 13. Inspection Expectations for Partner Agencies During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Please find attached a letter regarding EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance's (OECA's) commitment to work with states, tribes, territories, and local agencies to adjust, if necessary, inspection commitments due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. There is limited SPCC/FRP applicability as we are a Direct implementation (DI) program but wanted you to be aware as you may inspect in other programs. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Martha Segall at segall.martha@epa.gov or 202-564-0723. As stated in the letter, if you have questions regarding inspection commitments under OECA's compliance monitoring strategies, please contact the EPA

- ECAD director for your region. The letter also provides direction on who to seek out to discuss grant commitments or commitments made to other EPA offices.
- 14. Announcing EPA's New Indoor Air and COVID-19 Webpage COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person. However, some uncertainty remains about the relative importance of different routes of transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). There is growing evidence that this virus can remain airborne for longer times and further distances than originally thought. In addition to close contact with infected people and contaminated surfaces, there is a possibility that spread of COVID-19 may also occur via airborne particles in indoor environments, in some circumstances beyond the 2 m (about 6 ft) range encouraged by social distancing recommendations. However, there are straightforward steps that can be taken to reduce potential airborne transmission of COVID-19 and the focus of this material is on those measures. The layout and design of a building, as well as occupancy and type of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, can all impact potential airborne spread of the virus. Although improvements to ventilation and air cleaning cannot on their own eliminate the risk of airborne transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, EPA recommends precautions to reduce the potential for airborne transmission of the virus. These precautions include increasing ventilation with outdoor air and air filtration as part of a larger strategy that includes social distancing, wearing cloth face coverings or masks, surface cleaning and disinfecting, handwashing, and other precautions. By themselves, measures to reduce airborne exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 are not enough since airborne transmission is not the only way exposure to SARS-CoV-2 could potentially occur. Topics Covered on EPA's Indoor Air and COVID-19 webpage include:
 - e. Indoor Air in Homes and Coronavirus (COVID-19)
 - f. Ventilation and Coronavirus (COVID-19)
 - g. Air Cleaners, HVAC Filters and Coronavirus (COVID-19)
 - h. Additional Measures to Address COVID-19 in Public Indoor Spaces
 - i. COVID-19, Wildfires, and Indoor Air Quality
 - j. Science and Technical Resources related to Indoor Air and Coronavirus (COVID-19)
 - k. Indoor Air and COVID-19 Key References and Publications

National Issues

- 15. AIEO Weekly, July 16-22, 2020 (attached) INTERNAL EPA ONLY
- 16. AIEO Weekly, July 23-29, 2020 (attached) INTERNAL EPA ONLY

Other Program Areas

- 17. EPA Announces \$4.3 Million for Tribes to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water in Schools announced a new grant program to help protect children in tribal communities from lead in drinking water at schools and childcare facilities. With this action, the agency is continuing to make meaningful progress in implementing the Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures by engaging with and working to protect children's health in these traditionally underserved communities. Authorized by the Water Infrastructure Improvements of the Nation (WIIN) Act, EPA is making \$4.3 million available to support the Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Tribal Grant Program. Grantees will use the EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water guidance to implement lead testing programs and develop monitoring, maintenance and/or sampling plans that protect children from lead exposure now and in the future. Beneficiaries of the program must be members of a federally recognized tribe. EPA is sending letters to tribal consortia to provide information about the program and to provide the opportunity for each consortium to notify EPA if it intends to participate in the program. EPA will host a webinar in August to provide more information about the 3Ts toolkit and an overview of the grant and its scope. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-43-million-tribes-reduce-lead-drinking-water-schools
- 18. **EPA Continues to Aggressively Address PFAS on the Federal, State, and Local Level** Building on the assistance provided to more than 30 states, EPA continues its commitment to supporting state, tribal, and local communities in addressing PFAS. Aggressively addressing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) continues

to be an active and ongoing priority for the EPA. In July alone, EPA has made significant progress implementing the <u>PFAS Action Plan</u>—the most comprehensive cross-agency plan ever to address an emerging chemical of concern. Together, these efforts are helping EPA, states, tribes, and local communities across the country target PFAS reductions and protect public health. For more information on the actions below, see the <u>press</u> release.

- a. EPA Moves Forward on New PFAS Policies Interim Guidance on the Destruction and Disposal of PFAS and Materials Containing PFAS and Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR 5) proposal.
- b. EPA Publishes Action that Strengthens PFAS Regulations EPA's <u>final Significant New Use Rule for long-</u>chain PFAS published in the Federal Register.
- c. EPA Collaborates with Federal Partners on PFAS Research EPA, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced a partnership with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to coordinate a workshop to review federal PFAS research efforts and help identify possible research gaps.
- d. EPA Provides Help Where It Is Needed EPA has formed partnerships with states, tribes, and local communities across the country. These joint projects allow EPA to take the knowledge of its world class scientists and apply it in a collaborative fashion where it counts most.
- e. EPA Improves Available Tools for States, Tribes, and Communities to Address PFAS EPA added <u>new</u> <u>treatment options for four new PFAS compounds and 20 new scientific references</u> to the Drinking Water Treatability Database, and publicly released updates to the <u>CompTox Chemical Dashboard</u>,
- f. EPA Continues Innovative Approaches to Studying PFAS EPA's PFAS <u>Innovative Treatment</u>

 <u>Team completed a Memorandum of Understanding with a U.S.-based company specializing in disposal of biosolids, green waste, and biomass and plans to conduct field research with them this summer.</u>
- 19. Registration Open: ITEP's National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference (NTICC) Registration is now open for ITEP's Virtual National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference (NTICC) and there is no cost for attendance. Join us to listen and hear from various partners who will be joining us to share their knowledge and stories about the work they are doing to address the climate crisis occurring in our communities. We are so honored to feature many amazing speakers including our warriors, Winona LaDuke of Honor the Earth and Xiuhtezcati Martinez of Earth Guardians, Melanie Goodchild of Canada's Turtle Island Institute, Janene Yazzie of Diné Nation & International Indian Treaty Council, and many more. For more information, please visit here.
- 20. Invitation from the National Academy of Sciences to nominate experts for the Committee on Anticipatory Research for EPA's Research and Development Enterprise to Inform Future Environmental Protection The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine are now assembling a committee to identify emerging scientific and technological advances from across a broad range of disciplines that EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) should consider in its research planning to support EPA's mission for protecting human health and the environment. In addition, the committee will recommend how ORD could best take advantage of those advances to meet current and future challenges during the next 10-20 years. You are invited to nominate individuals to serve on this study committee with expertise from a wide range of disciplines that can be applied to current and emerging environmental challenges facing society. We are seeking experts in areas including, but not limited, to:
 - a. strategic foresight and identification of new and emerging science and technology;
 - b. engineering; informatics/information technology;
 - c. physical, chemical, biological, environmental, and social sciences;
 - d. exposure science, risk assessment, and risk management;
 - e. public health;
 - f. aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems;
 - g. integrated approaches to environmental research; and
 - h. communication and application of scientific information in environmental policymaking.

Please submit all nominations through the online form by August 5, 2020.

21. Publication of the "Opportunity Zone Field Manual" and "Opportunity Zone Community Toolkit Vol. 2 - The Opportunity Zone Field Manual and The Opportunity Zone Community Toolkit Vol. 2 are now available. The Field Manual is intended to provide guidance for Federal staff engaged in supporting Opportunity Zone designated communities. The Opportunity Zone Community Toolkit Vol. 2 is a guide to local best practices and case studies. These and other OZ materials are available here.

- 22. Register now for 2020 (Tribal-FEMA-BIA) Partners In Action Conference! August 20-September 4 We are pleased to announce the 10th Annual Partners in Action Conference! See attached flyer and course catalog. This year we have over 60 Courses offered. Due to the unusual circumstances of 2020 the Partners in Action Conference will be held virtually. This means that you can attend the conference from any internet connection using your laptop, cell phone, or tablet. Most sessions will be delivered in the Microsoft Teams platform, while a few may be in WebEx or Adobe Connect. As always, the Partners in Action Conference is offered at no cost. Review the attached Course Catalog and decide which sessions you'd like to attend. (You can attend as many or as few as you'd like.) Click on the Registration Link, enter your information and make your selections. REGISTER/SIGN UP NOW!
- 23. National Tribal Water Council JULY 2020 Newsletter (attached)
- 24. **Register for August 6 EE2020 Webinar on ArcGIS StoryMaps!** The next installment of the EE2020 webinar series is set for Thursday, August 6 at 1:00 PM Eastern! Visit the <u>EE2020 meeting website</u> to reserve your spot today. **Date:** August 6, 2020,. **Time:** 1:00-3:00 PM Eastern.

Register: https://www.eenationalmeeting.net/august-2020. The August 6 webinar will focus on the ArcGIS StoryMaps application and how government agencies use it to tell artful, informative stories about their efforts to protect the environment and human health. https://www.eenationalmeeting.net/august-2020. The August 6 webinar will focus on the ArcGIS StoryMaps application and how government agencies use it to tell artful, informative stories about their efforts to protect the environment and human health. https://www.eenationalmeeting.net/august-2020. The August 6 webinar will focus on the ArcGIS StoryMaps application and how government agencies use it to tell artful, informative stories about their efforts to protect the environment and human health. https://www.eenationalmeeting.net/august-2020. The August 6 webinar will focus on the ArcGIS StoryMaps application and how government agencies use it to tell artful, informative stories about their efforts to protect the environment and human health. https://www.eenationalmeeting.net/august-2020.

email: krakouskas@ecos.org. the webinar will cover a range of topics including:

- a. An introduction to ArcGIS StoryMaps
- b. How to get started on building StoryMaps
- c. Tips for effective storytelling
- d. Examples of good and bad StoryMaps
- e. Example guidance for creating StoryMaps
- f. Other resources for training, tips, etc.

Erika Wilson

Tribal Program Coordinator
Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM)
U.S. EPA
202.343.9113
wilson.erika@epa.gov

From: Cruz, Abigail [cruz.abigail@epa.gov]

Sent: 7/31/2020 4:21:58 PM

To: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]

Subject: RE: tribal expertise kindly requested! (WETG)

Thank you, Randy! Have a wonderful weekend.

Abby Cruz

American Indian Environmental Office U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Phone: 202.564.5999 cruz.abigail@epa.gov

Creating Tangible Environmental Results with Tribes

Find out more at www.epa.gov/tribal





From: Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 12:02 PM
To: Cruz, Abigail <cruz.abigail@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: tribal expertise kindly requested! (WETG)

Hello Abby,

Thank you for the opportunity to review. My suggested language and comment are on the Indian country slide. They both relate to the McGirt Supreme Court case.

Randy

From: Cruz, Abigail cruz.abigail@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 9:03 AM

To: Gee, Randy <<u>Gee.Randy@epa.gov</u>>; Childers, Pat <<u>Childers.Pat@epa.gov</u>>; Gude, Karen <<u>Gude.Karen@epa.gov</u>> **Cc:** Wright, Felicia <<u>Wright.Felicia@epa.gov</u>>; Besougloff, Jeff <<u>Besougloff.Jeff@epa.gov</u>>; St-Denis, Francine <<u>St-</u>

Denis.Francine@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: tribal expertise kindly requested! (WETG)

A friendly nudge that I look forward to receiving your feedback on this training by COB today!

Cheers,

Abby Cruz

American Indian Environmental Office U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Phone: 202.564.5999 cruz.abigail@epa.gov

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From: Cruz, Abigail < cruz.abigail@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:56 AM

To: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>; Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov>; Childers, Pat <Childers.Pat@epa.gov>;

Gude, Karen < Gude. Karen@epa.gov>

Cc: Wright, Felicia < Wright. Felicia@epa.gov >; Besougloff, Jeff < Besougloff, Jeff@epa.gov >; St-Denis, Francine < St-

Denis.Francine@epa.gov>

Subject: tribal expertise kindly requested! (WETG)

Greetings Regional and HQ tribal experts!

AIEO is drafting the 2021 Working Effectively with Tribal Governments (WETG) training and we would love your expertise in reviewing/editing our draft.

If you are able to review it, please have edits/comments completed by COB next Friday, July 31. (The document is located here – please do not change the text itself, but add "comments" with your proposed edits.) We anticipate the review taking about 1 to 1.5 hours of your time.

Thank you for all you do and be well!

Sincerely, Abby

Abby Cruz

American Indian Environmental Office U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of International and Tribal Affairs Phone: 202.564.5999 cruz.abigail@epa.gov

Creating Tangible Environmental Results with Tribes

Find out more at www.epa.gov/tribal



From: Alvarado, Tina [Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov]

Sent: 7/31/2020 3:01:12 PM

To: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]

Subject: Cherokee citizens case



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Cherokee Members Cite McGirt In Class Suit Over Court Fees

By Emma Whitford

Law360 (July 21, 2020, 5:48 PM EDT) -- A proposed class of Cherokee tribe members is seeking reimbursement for court fines and fees, saying the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in McGirt v. Oklahoma clarifies that the state and its counties and towns lacked jurisdiction to prosecute them.

Cherokee member Tayleur Raye Pickup and others filed the proposed class action on Monday in Oklahoma federal court, seeking class certification for Native Americans prosecuted by the state or jurisdictions within it for traffic offenses or misdemeanor crimes allegedly committed within the Cherokee Reservation in northeastern Oklahoma.

The Cherokee members pointed to the divided McGirt v. Oklahoma decision, which found that 19th century tribal reservation lands of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation still exist in Oklahoma for the purposes of the Major Crimes Act.

"The <u>United States Supreme Court</u> made it clear that, for more than a century, the State of Oklahoma ... and its political subdivisions (through the various cities and towns) have charged, fined and otherwise imposed court costs or administrative fees resulting in large sums of money being taken from tribal members without the jurisdiction to do so," the proposed class claimed on Monday.

Though the McGirt opinion, issued on July 9, does not mention the <u>Cherokee Nation</u> explicitly, plaintiffs said, "the Cherokee Nation was a part of many of the same treaties and statutes referenced in the McGirt opinion."

"[A]pplying the facts relevant to the Cherokee Nation," they added, "it is easily concluded that the Cherokee Reservation has also never been disestablished by Congress and remains Indian Country today."

In the McGirt ruling, the Supreme Court overturned Muscogee (Creek) Nation member Jimcy McGirt's state court convictions for child sexual abuse crimes. The court agreed with McGirt and the tribe that the tribe's eastern Oklahoma reservation still exists — even though Oklahoma exercised jurisdiction over it for more than a century.

The majority found that a tribe's reservation cannot be disestablished without clear intent from Congress, court records show.

"There has not been a ruling affirmatively say[ing] that the Cherokee Reservation has not been disestablished," the Cherokee plaintiffs wrote on Monday. Yet, "the reasoning behind McGirt ... leads to that conclusion."

In addition to certification, the proposed class' complaint seeks a refund of all funds and feeds paid by class members. The total is likely more than \$75,000 for "thousands, if not tens of thousands" of class members, according to the complaint.

Defendants include various district courts in Oklahoma, such as in Nowata, Washington and Delaware counties, as well as district attorneys and multiple towns, including Adair, Bartlesville, Big Cabin, Pryor and Owasso.

Counsel information for the defendants was not immediately available.

Pickup, of Mayes County, Oklahoma, was convicted of escape from arrest in 2017, according to the complaint, stemming from alleged crimes committed within the Cherokee Reservation. He was also convicted of obstructing an officer in 2019.

Another proposed class member from Mayes County, Lindsey Reanna Butcher, was convicted last July of driving without a license and not wearing a seat belt.

"I'm certain that a number of individual lawsuits will be brought by people who want their criminal convictions overturned" in the wake of McGirt, Mark D. Lyons of Lyons & Clark Inc., counsel for the proposed class, told Law360 on Tuesday.

"I am hopeful that the individual municipalities and counties and all the people that have benefited through the years from filing charges and collecting fines and court costs on these cases will realize that it just has to be undone," Lyons added.

The <u>Yakama Nation</u> of Washington State and the **Cayuga Nation** of Western New York also **recently raised** McGirt in ongoing jurisdiction-related disputes.

The proposed class is represented by Mark D. Lyons of Lyons & Clark Inc., John M. Dunn of The Law Offices of John M. Dunn PLLC and Misty S. Fields of Fields & Garner PLLC.

Counsel information for the Oklahoma cities, counties and clerks was not immediately available.

The case is Pickup et al. v. District Court of Nowata County et al., case number $\underline{20\text{-cv-}00346}$ in the $\underline{\text{U.S.}}$ District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

--Additional reporting by Andrew Westney. Editing by Nicole Bleier.

Update: This story has been updated with comment from counsel for the proposed class.

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From: Alvarado, Tina [Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov]

Sent: 7/31/2020 2:28:05 PM

To: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]
Subject: Comanche Nation v DOI (Chickasaw)

Attachments: 1296000-1296896-https-ecf-okwd-uscourts-gov-doc1-14914930724.pdf

FYI



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Citing McGirt, Judge Upholds Okla. Tribe's Gaming Permit

By Adrian Cruz

Law360 (July 30, 2020, 11:14 PM EDT) -- An Oklahoma federal judge said Thursday that the <u>U.S.</u>
<u>Department of the Interior</u> didn't violate federal law when it acquired land for a <u>Chickasaw Nation</u> casino, dismissing the <u>Comanche Nation</u>'s bid to void the tribe's gaming permit at the site.

Judge Joe Heaton dismissed the Comanche tribe's claims accusing the DOI of violating the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, which bars gambling on lands taken into trust after 1988. Citing the <u>U.S. Supreme Court</u>'s recent decision in McGirt v. Oklahoma, which found that the reservation of the eastern Oklahoma Creek tribe still exists for federal criminal jurisdiction under the Major Crimes Act, the judge said the acquisition was legal because the land in question was at one point part of the Chickasaw reservation.

While he acknowledged that the decision in McGirt didn't necessarily apply to deciding whether the land was in fact still a reservation, Judge Heaton said the decision did scuttle the Comanche's claim saying the land — located near Terral, Oklahoma — was considered part of a dependent Indian community, non-reservation land set aside for tribes by the government.

"The court's decision in McGirt — that the Creek reservation had not been disestablished — was no doubt a surprise to Felix Cohen and virtually everyone else, but the surprise did not extend to deciding that the lands in question were anything other than 'reservations,'" Judge Heaton said in his order.

Claims challenging a second casino in the town of Marlow were also dismissed as Judge Heaton said the Comanche failed to properly explain what its issue was with that casino and what laws the casino violates. Simply operating the casino wasn't enough to justify their allegations, he said.

"Conducting gaming at that facility, without more, isn't enough. In short, whether viewed as a matter going to jurisdiction or simply as a matter of stating a substantive claim, the claims directed to the Marlow site must be dismissed," Judge Heaton said.

The claims alleging that a pair of sewage lagoons on the Terral property violated the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act stood because Judge Heaton said that the

Comanche could still have valid claims. The tribe argued that it wasn't notified about an environmental assessment being made on the site, mentioning that the current location of the lagoons could potentially impact nearby burial sites.

Richard Grellner who represents the Comanche, told Law360 in a statement that following the Supreme Court's McGirt decision, the partial dismissal was expected but that he feels optimistic on the remaining environmental claims and that going forward, those claims will be their focus.

"Over the past three decades, DOI took over five dozen casinos into trust for three tribes (who control 2/3rd's of the state's \$5 billion casino market) with absolutely no environmental review while they were clearly intended for casino purposes," Grellner said. "We believe such a fundamental departure from the requirements of the law should render such acquisitions 'void ab initio.'"

The DOI argued that because the casino is already built and operating, the environmental policy and historic preservation law claims were moot, an opinion that Judge Heaton agreed with outside of the claims concerning the sewage lagoons.

The Comanche Nation initially filed suit in August 2017, seeking to halt construction on what was then a planned Chickasaw casino near Terral. The casino, known as the Riverstar, first opened in March 2018 and is located about 45 miles from a casino operated by the Comanche, according to court filings.

The Comanche additionally said that the Chickasaw and others of the Five Civilized Tribes — which also include the Seminole, Cherokee, Choctaw and Creek — have been able to corner the lion's share of Indian gaming in Oklahoma through what the Comanche said was a longstanding failure of DOI officials to adhere to federal law relating to trust acquisitions for Indian gaming.

Representatives for the federal government didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday.

The Comanche Nation is represented by Richard J. Grellner of RJG Law PLLC and John P. Racin of the Law Office of John P. Racin.

The federal government is represented by Kay Sewell and Amanda R. Johnson of the <u>U.S. Attorney's Office</u> for the Western District of Oklahoma, Devon Lehman McCune of the <u>U.S. Department of Justice</u>'s Environmental and Natural Resources Division and Brittany Berger of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of the Solicitor.

The case is Comanche Nation of Oklahoma v. Zinke et al., case number 5:17-cv-00887, in the <u>U.S.</u> District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma.

--Editing by Michael Watanabe.

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

| COMANCHE NATION OF |) | |
|---|-------------|--------------------|
| OKLAHOMA, |) | |
| Plaintiff, |) | |
| vs. |) | NO. CIV-17-0887-HE |
| DAVID BERNHARDT, Secretary U.S. Department of Interior, et al., |))) | |
| Defendants. |) | |
| | | |

ORDER

Plaintiff is seeking declaratory and injunctive relief relating to the acquisition of certain lands in trust for the benefit of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. Specifically, plaintiff's First Amended Complaint challenges the acquisition, for gaming purposes, of property at Terral, Oklahoma and Marlow, Oklahoma. Plaintiff alleges violations of the Administrative Procedure Act ("APA"), the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"), and the National Historic Preservation Act ("NHPA"). Defendants have moved to dismiss the complaint pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) and 12(b)(6), asserting this court lacks jurisdiction over certain claims and that the complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

Analysis

Defendants contend plaintiff's claims regarding the Marlow site should be dismissed because the court lacks jurisdiction over them and, even if jurisdiction exists, no claim is stated. Defendants contend the complaint fails to state an APA claim as to either

site. Finally, defendants contend the NEPA and NHPA claims are moot because the construction of the casino in Terral has already been completed.

I. Claims regarding Marlow site

In order for this court to have jurisdiction under the APA, the plaintiff must challenge a "final agency action." See Chem. Weapons Working Grp., Inc. v. United States Dep't of the Army, 111 F.3d 1485, 1494 (10th Cir. 1997); Colo. Farm Bureau Fed'n v. United States Forest Serv., 220 F.3d 1171, 1173 (10th Cir. 2000). "Plaintiffs have the burden of identifying specific federal conduct and explaining how it is 'final agency action' within the meaning of [5 U.S.C. § 551(13)]." Colo. Farm Bureau, 220 F.3d at 1173. While the first amended complaint references the January 2017 trust acquisition in Terral, it includes no specific acquisition or agency action as to the Marlow site. Indeed, the complaint says virtually nothing at all about the Marlow site except for passing references to the fact that gaming activities occur there. The failure to identify any particular agency action as to which plaintiff seeks relief appears to prevent the court from having jurisdiction over an APA claim directed at Marlow. However, even if jurisdiction is assumed to exist, the complaint states no basis for a claim as to the Marlow facility. Conducting gaming at that facility, without more, isn't enough. In short, whether viewed as a matter going to jurisdiction or simply as a matter of stating a substantive claim, the claims directed to the Marlow site must be dismissed.

II. APA claim regarding Terral site

Defendants contend that plaintiff's APA claim in relation to the Terral site should be dismissed for failure to state a claim because no statute or regulation has been violated. In the complaint, plaintiff alleges:

The trust acquisition for gaming purposes for the benefit of the Chickasaw Nation at Terral, Oklahoma took place without a showing of Chickasaw jurisdiction of the lands prior to acquisition, thereby rendering the acquisition violative of the Indian Reorganization Act ("IRA") and Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and arbitrary, capricious and an abuse of discretion pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

[Doc. #78-2] at ¶ 94. In prior proceedings in this case, the Tenth Circuit has determined that under the IRA and the IGRA, no such jurisdictional requirement exists. *See* Comanche Nation of Okla. v. Zinke, 754 F. App'x 768, 771-74 (10th Cir. 2018).

Although its argument is not entirely clear, plaintiff also appears to suggest that the acceptance of the Terral site into trust, based on its status as land formerly within the scope of the Chickasaw reservation, was illegal because there never was a Chickasaw "reservation" in the first place. It relies on questions from some members of the Supreme Court, during oral argument in McGirt v. Oklahoma, 140 S.Ct. 2452 (2020), suggesting that lands like those involved here might technically be "dependent Indian communities" rather than "reservations." However, McGirt has now been decided, and it does not support plaintiff's speculation. The Court's decision in McGirt — that the Creek reservation had not been disestablished — was no doubt a surprise to Felix Cohen and virtually everyone else, but the surprise did not extend to deciding that the lands in question were anything other than "reservations." See McGirt at 2474-5. In short, there is nothing in McGirt to

undercut the previous analysis of this court and of the Court of Appeals to the effect that, because the Terral site either was, or maybe still is,¹ part of the Chickasaw reservation, the decision to take it into trust was a permissible one under the pertinent authorities.

Accordingly, plaintiff has failed to state an APA claim in relation to the Terral site, and that claim will be dismissed.

III. NEPA and NHPA claims

Finally, defendants assert that plaintiff's NEPA and NHPA claims should be dismissed as moot because the casino building has been built and is operating. NEPA and NHPA claims typically "no longer present [] a live controversy when the proposed action has been completed and when no effective relief is available." Caddo Nation of Okla. v. Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, 877 F.3d 1171, 1176-77 (10th Cir. 2017) (quoting Airport Neighbors All., Inc. v. United States, 90 F.3d 426, 428 (10th Cir. 1996)). It is undisputed that the casino building is complete and operating, and plaintiff does not allege otherwise. However, plaintiff asserts that its NEPA and NHPA claims are not moot as to any wastewater sewage lagoons that might be built on the north side of the casino. It appears that the EA contemplated that the sewage lagoons would be built on the north side of the casino, but that they were actually built on the south side. Defendants contend plaintiff's argument relies on mere speculation and does not demonstrate that there is agency action left to occur, even if the Chickasaw Nation expands its casino.

¹ The court does not assume that <u>McGirt</u>'s reasoning and result, which was directed to the Creek Tribe, necessarily extends to the Chickasaw Tribe. But even if it does, it does not support the argument plaintiff advances here.

Case 5:17-cv-00887-HE Document 98 Filed 07/30/20 Page 5 of 5

The completion of the casino renders the majority of plaintiff's NEPA and NHPA

claims moot. And it is not apparent how or whether the placement of the sewage lagoons

on one side of the casino versus the other constitutes a meaningful distinction for present

purposes. However, as this case is still in the pleading stage, the court concludes it would

be premature to now dismiss the NEPA and NHPA claims in their entirety. It may be that

some un-mooted basis for a claim remains based on the placement of the lagoons.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, defendants' Motion to Dismiss [Doc. #79] is **GRANTED**

IN PART and DENIED IN PART. The motion is denied to the extent that any NEPA or

NHPA claim remains based on the sewage lagoons. The motion is otherwise granted and

all other claims are hereby **DISMISSED**. Plaintiff is directed to advise the court, by an

appropriate filing within 21 days, whether it intends to pursue claims based on the

placement of the sewage lagoons.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 30th day of July, 2020.

ATES DISTRICT JUDGE

5

From: Tanimura, Erin [Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov]

Sent: 7/21/2020 3:19:24 PM

To: Blanco, Arturo [Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov]

CC: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]; Acosta, Gerardo [Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov]

Subject: RE: McGirt Case

Thanks, Arturo!

Erin

From: Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 10:04 AM **To:** Tanimura, Erin <Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov>

Cc: Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: McGirt Case

Yes, Suzanne is expecting to be on the call. If possible, Suzanne will try to have someone from OGC as well for their assistance.

From: Tanimura, Erin < Tanimura. Erin@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 9:52 AM

To: Blanco, Arturo < Blanco. Arturo@epa.gov>

Cc: Gee, Randy < Gee.Randy@epa.gov >; Acosta, Gerardo < Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov >

Subject: RE: McGirt Case

Thanks, Arturo, will Suzanne be on the call as well?

Erin

From: Blanco, Arturo < Blanco. Arturo@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 9:52 AM

To: Tanimura, Erin < <u>Tanimura</u>. Erin@epa.gov>

Cc: Gee, Randy < Gee. Randy@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo < Acosta. Gerardo@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: McGirt Case

Tina Alvarado will discuss it.

From: Tanimura, Erin < Tanimura. Erin@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 9:47 AM

To: Blanco, Arturo < Blanco. Arturo@epa.gov>

Cc: Gee, Randy < Gee.Randy@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo < Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: McGirt Case

Good morning, Arturo,

Will Suzanne be on the RTOC call tomorrow afternoon to discuss McGirt?

Thanks,

Erin

Erin Tanimura
Office of the Regional Administrator (ORA)
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite #500
Dallas, Texas 75270-2102
P: 214-665-8181
tanimura.erin@epa.gov

From: Gee, Randy < Gee.Randy@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 3:14 PM

To: McQueen, Ken < McQueen. Ken@epa.gov>; Tatum, Stephen < Tatum. Stephen@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo

<Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>

Subject: McGirt Case

RTOC meeting update- The Tribal Caucus requested to discuss the McGirt case at the Wednesday meeting after the division reports in the afternoon. An agenda item (Tribal Citizen Science Project) is being removed to allow for the discussion.

Randy Gee

EPA Region 6 Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment

Office Phone: 214-665-8355

From: Alvarado, Tina [Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov]

Sent: 8/10/2020 8:09:17 PM

To: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]

Subject: RE: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

You know, I hate to do this, but I should probably check with Suzanne and OGC to see if they would want me to do this since there will be people from all over the country.

From: Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 3:07 PM
To: Alvarado, Tina <Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

FYI

From: Craig Kreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com>

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 3:06 PM **To:** Gee, Randy < Gee. Randy @epa.gov >

Subject: RE: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

We don't have a date set yet. Let me do some checking and get back with you.

And I just found out that this would be a joint webinar between NTAA and National Tribal Water Council.

Thanks

From: Gee, Randy < Gee.Randy@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:57 PM

To: Craig Kreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com Subject: RE: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

Craig- is there a date for the webinar? Tina said she could participate.

Randy

From: Gee, Randy

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:20 PM

To: ckreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com

Subject: Re: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

Dropped the ball Craig; checking now.

Randy

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 10, 2020, at 1:48 PM, Craig Kreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com> wrote:

Randy,

Were you able to check in with Tina Alvarado on the request concerning the NTAA webinar on the McGirt case?

Thanks

From: Gee, Randy < Gee. Randy@epa.gov > Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 2:54 PM

To: Craig Kreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com Subject: Re: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

I don't know Joseph. His sister and my daughter were friends at Tahlequah High School and I met his dad through high band activities. I believe Sheila Sevenstar at ITEC and Joseph are cousins.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 31, 2020, at 2:45 PM, Craig Kreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com> wrote:

Joseph Byrd will become the new Chairman for Quapaw Nation on August 15th when they are sworn in at the next Business Committee meeting?

Do you know Joseph?

From: Gee, Randy < Gee. Randy@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 2:44 PM

To: Craig Kreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com Subject: RE: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

Hello Craig,

I can check with Tina Alvarado who is our tribal law attorney.

On another note, is Joseph Byrd now the Chairman for Quapaw Nation? We are updating our tribal contact list and didn't know when his term would start.

Have a good weekend.

Randy

From: Craig Kreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com>

Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 2:17 PM
To: Gee, Randy < Gee. Randy@epa.gov>

Subject: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

Randy,

We have been talking at NTAA about having a webinar around the decision from the McGirt case. Do you know of anyone in R6 that would be willing to talk to the decision?

| I know we have Regional Counsel representation talk at the RTOC Meeting last week. I wonder if they would be willing to do the same thing for an NTAA webinar. |
|--|
| Thanks, |
| Craig Kreman, P.E. |
| Environmental Engineer |
| Quapaw Nation |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |

From: Alvarado, Tina [Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov]

Sent: 8/10/2020 7:55:09 PM

To: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]

Subject: RE: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

Sure. When is it? (not that I will be going anywhere...)

From: Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:19 PM
To: Alvarado, Tina <Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov>

Subject: Fwd: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

Tina-can you provide a McGirt update on the next NTAA webinar?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Craig Kreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com>

Date: August 10, 2020 at 1:48:43 PM CDT **To:** "Gee, Randy" < Gee.Randy@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

Randy,

Were you able to check in with Tina Alvarado on the request concerning the NTAA webinar on the McGirt case?

Thanks

From: Gee, Randy < Gee.Randy@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 2:54 PM

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Randy

From: Craig Kreman < ckreman@quapawnation.com>

Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 2:17 PM
To: Gee, Randy < Gee. Randy@epa.gov>

Subject: NTAA Webinar concerning McGirt case

Randy,

We have been talking at NTAA about having a webinar around the decision from the McGirt case. Do you know of anyone in R6 that would be willing to talk to the decision?

I know we have Regional Counsel representation talk at the RTOC Meeting last week. I wonder if they would be willing to do the same thing for an NTAA webinar.

Thanks,

Craig Kreman, P.E.
Environmental Engineer
Quapaw Nation

From: Wang, Jonathan [Wang.Jonathan@epa.gov]

Sent: 7/16/2020 2:05:21 PM

To: Tatum, Stephen [Tatum.Stephen@epa.gov]

CC: Davis, Suea [davis.suea@epa.gov]; Tanimura, Erin [Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov]; McAtee, Jeffrey

[McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; Taheri, Diane [Taheri.Diane@epa.gov]; Blanco, Arturo [Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov]; Gee,

Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]

Subject: RA TP's for 07.22 RTOC Virtual Meeting

Attachments: RA Talking Points 7.22.2020 July RTOC Meeting.docx

Hi Stephen,

Attached is the RA TP's for next week's RTOC Virtual Meeting. Thanks.

Jonathan Wang Public Affairs Specialist US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 Office of External Affairs 214-665-2296

From: Acosta, Gerardo [Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov]

Sent: 8/6/2020 1:01:35 PM

To: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]; Blanco, Arturo [Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov]

Subject: RE: RTOC update McGirt

Sounds good, thanks

Regards,

Gerardo Acosta, Staff Director,
Office of Communities, Tribes, and Environmental Assessment
US EPA Region VI (ORAC)
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270

214.665.8042 (desk) 469.520.7752 (mobile)

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



From: Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov> Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 8:01 AM

To: Acosta, Gerardo <Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov>; Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: RTOC update McGirt

Thanks Gerardo- I planned to have Mark send out (Ira if Mark is out).

Randy

From: Acosta, Gerardo < Acosta. Gerardo @epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2020 7:43 AM

To: Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: RTOC update McGirt

Randy,

Let me know if you need me to handle as you're out of the office.

Regards,

Gerardo Acosta, Staff Director,
Office of Communities, Tribes, and Environmental Assessment
US EPA Region VI (ORAC)
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270

214.665.8042 (desk) 469.520.7752 (mobile)

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



From: Blanco, Arturo < Blanco. Arturo@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 7:33 AM **To:** Gee, Randy Gee_Randy@epa.gov>

Cc: Acosta, Gerardo < Acosta. Gerardo @epa.gov>

Subject: FW: RTOC update McGirt

Randy, please handle tomorrow - send out to RTOC contact list

Arturo J. Blanco, Director
Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment
Office of the Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270-2102
214.665.3182 (O)
214.531.8629 (M)

From: Gray, David <<u>gray.david@epa.gov</u>>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 7:05 AM
To: Blanco, Arturo <<u>Blanco, Arturo@epa.gov</u>>

Cc: McGuire, James < McGuire.James@epa.gov>; Smith, Suzanne < Smith.Suzanne@epa.gov>

Subject: RTOC update McGirt

Arturo,

Please have your team provide a McGirt update to our entire RTOC contact list by distributing these two documents on Friday.

David

David Gray
Deputy Regional Administrator
USEPA – Dallas
gray.david@epa.gov
(214) 665-8120 direct
(214) 789-2619 cell
(214) 665-2100 general office

From: Blanco, Arturo [Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov]

Sent: 8/6/2020 12:33:09 PM

To: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]

CC: Acosta, Gerardo [Acosta.Gerardo@epa.gov]

Subject: FW: RTOC update McGirt

Attachments: ConsultationRequest.pdf; SAFETEA.OklahomaRequest.2020.7.22.pdf

Randy, please handle tomorrow - send out to RTOC contact list

Arturo J. Blanco, Director
Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment
Office of the Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270-2102
214.665.3182 (O)
214.531.8629 (M)

From: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 7:05 AM
To: Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>

Cc: McGuire, James < McGuire.James@epa.gov>; Smith, Suzanne < Smith.Suzanne@epa.gov>

Subject: RTOC update McGirt

Arturo,

Please have your team provide a McGirt update to our entire RTOC contact list by distributing these two documents on Friday.

David

David Gray
Deputy Regional Administrator
USEPA – Dallas
gray.david@epa.gov
(214) 665-8120 direct
(214) 789-2619 cell
(214) 665-2100 general office

From: Becker, Kathryn, NMENV [kathryn.becker@state.nm.us]

Sent: 7/30/2020 4:20:20 PM

To: Gee, Randy [Gee.Randy@epa.gov]
CC: Alvarado, Tina [Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov]

Subject: RE: checking in

Thank you!

From: Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov> Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 10:07 AM

To: Becker, Kathryn, NMENV <kathryn.becker@state.nm.us>

Cc: Alvarado, Tina < Alvarado. Tina@epa.gov>

Subject: [EXT] FW: checking in

Latest from our liaison with Fort Sill Apache.

From: Hicks, Curtis hicks.curtis@epa.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Gee, Randy Gee.Randy@epa.gov
Cc: Alvarado, Tina Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov

Subject: RE: checking in

I just confirmed with a Fort Sill Apache Tribal Business Committee Member that Chairwoman Ware was elected October 2019 and her term expires October 2021.

This Tribal Business Committee Member did not recognize Ben Miller being associated with Tribal Leadership.

If additional information is required, please advise.

From: Gee, Randy < Gee.Randy@epa.gov > Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 10:52 AM

To: Hicks, Curtis < hicks.curtis@epa.gov>; Alvarado, Tina < Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: checking in

Curt- can you check at Fort Sill on this claim?

Thanks

Randy

From: Becker, Kathryn, NMENV < kathryn.becker@state.nm.us

Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 10:38 AM

To: Alvarado, Tina <<u>Alvarado.Tina@epa.gov</u>>; Gee, Randy <<u>Gee.Randy@epa.gov</u>>

Subject: checking in

Hello:

I received a long voicemail from Ben Miller last Friday. He claims to be the recently elected Chief of the Fort Sill Apaches. I do not know Mr. Miller and in his message to me was explaining how the recent McGirt decision may change

how their lands are viewed. Before I call him back I would like to find out if you know him and if you know if Chairwoman Gooday Ware is still in office. Thanks!

https://fortsillapache-nsn.gov/about-the-fort-sill-apache-tribe/business-committee/

Kathryn S. Becker
Assistant General Counsel
Tribal Liaison
New Mexico Environment Department
Office of General Counsel
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
Phone: 505-827-2054

kathryn.becker@state.nm.us

www.env.nm.gov

From: Barrows, Judy [Barrows.Judy@epa.gov]

Sent: 7/10/2020 8:50:50 PM

Subject: USEPA OLEM Tribal Friday News Roundup - June 29-July 10, 2020

Attachments: NTWC Newsletter June 2020.pdf; Native Voices Newsletter June 2020.pdf

This is being sent as a bcc to tribal government, tribal consortia, and U.S. EPA contacts who work on underground storage tanks issues in Indian country. If you are a tribal government, tribal consortia, or U.S. EPA employee and would like to be added or removed from this email list, please send a message to Judy Barrows at Barrows.judy@epa.gov

Below is a compilation of information from Erika Wilson, Tribal Program Coordinator, Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM), U.S. EPA.

Feel free to share this information with your colleagues.

Today's Friday News Roundup Includes Information on:

- 1. Registration Open for the TLEF: A Virtual Gathering!
- Sign Up Now to Host a TLEF Virtual Exhibitor Booth!
- 3. Introduction to Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Regulation (SPCC) Webinar for Tribes
- 4. SERC/TERC Monthly Updates Newsletter
- 5. On-line training: EPCRA Training for States, Tribes, LEPCs, Local Planners and Responders (Non-Section 313)
- 6. NASTTPO 2020 Mid-Year Meeting; October 19-21, 2020; Houston, TX; possibly virtually
- 7. 2020-2021 Small Business Innovation Research Open Solicitation
- 8. <u>Most Common Game Animals in the US and Information on Intakes, Habitation, Hunt Frequency, and Human Consumption</u>
- 9. Power and Pollinators: Pollinator-Friendly Landscapes for Solar Facilities
- 10. PFAS Fate, Transport and Treatment
- 11. Collaborating with Colleges and Universities for Redevelopment Opportunities
- 12. Federal Facilities Online Academy, August 3 & September 14, 2020
- 13. Online Training Course: Developing Small-Scale Transfer Stations on Tribal Lands
- 14. Waste Assessment Training for Tribes
- 15. EPA's Contaminated Site Cleanup Information (CLU-IN) website and newsletter
- 16. ORCR SMM listserv
- 17. ORCR Solid and Hazardous Waste listserv
- 18. SERC/TERC Monthly Updates newsletter
- 19. EPA approves first surface disinfectant products tested on the SARS-CoV-2 virus
- COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for Field Activities (applicable to tribal inspectors operating with an EPA inspector credentials)
- 21. Supreme Court decision on McGirt v. Oklahoma case
- 22. Presidential Message on the 50th Anniversary of the Federal Policy of Indian Self-Determination
- 23. National Tribal Water Council June 2020 Newsletter
- 24. National Tribal Water Program Updates E-Newsletter July 2020
- 25. Native Voices June 2020 Newsletter
- 26. Webinar Keys to Success: Water Recycling in Tribal Communities
- 27. 2020 ECOS STEP Meeting: Partnering on PFAS
- 28. EE2020 Webinar on Machine Learning & Predictive Analytics

OLEM Topics

- 1. **Registration Open for the TLEF: A Virtual Gathering!** August 17-20, 2020. Don't Delay: Registration Ends Monday, August 3! For general registration questions, please email TLEF@nau.edu. Click Here to Visit Our Site. Click on the "click here to register" box! We've specifically chosen and built a platform that will allow you to not only learn, but also connect with your friends and colleagues like you normally do during the TLEF. And best of all, there is no registration fee this year!
 - a. Two plenary sessions. We are exceptionally excited about the keynote speaker for the Opening Plenary this year. We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer, the author of Braiding Sweetgrass. We will also have welcoming remarks from the heads of the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, the Tribal Waste & Response Steering Committee, and the US EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management and the American Indian Environmental Office. As those of you who have been to a TLEF in past years know, we like to end our conference with an inspiring presentation by someone working on protecting our other relations coming full circle as we all work in various waste and response fields. We've had Tribal professionals speak on raptor rehabilitation, fish conservation, and reintroduction of Big Horn Sheep, for example. This year we are lucky to have Jason Baldes, a Board Member of the Inter Tribal Buffalo Council, provide our Closing Plenary presentation.
 - b. 21 Live Sessions by a wide variety of experts, covering solid waste, Superfund, USTs, emergency response, and multi-media topics. Each of these sessions will include live Q&A sessions so you can engage directly with the presenters.
 - c. 20+ "Birds of a Feather" Live, small-group, video discussions. These special video discussion sessions will each have a particular topic strategizing unique public engagement approaches, discussing critical issues with staff from the US EPA, addressing corrosion issues at UST facilities, learning about renewable energy possibilities at contaminated sites, to name just a few and will allow you to network and brainstorm with your colleagues on subjects of importance to you.
 - d. Virtual Multi-Media Meetup is a networking opportunity to share information and interact with tribal colleagues, technical assistance providers, and agency staff on Wednesday afternoon. You'll be able to visit virtual booths, access their materials and videos, and also chat directly with each exhibitor. If you have a project or service you would like to share with TLEF participants, please contact Jen at jennifer.williams@nau.edu for more information on how to reserve your virtual booth today!
 - e. Opportunities to connect and chat with your colleagues one-on-one. Starting August 7 registered attendees can build their own profiles and then connect with colleagues, and even set up individual video chat sessions to have live one-on-one meetings! You'll also be able to participate in forums of interest to you, stay informed about daily events occurring during the TLEF, and customize your individual agenda.
 - f. Special in-depth trainings the week of August 24!. We've been working with three different groups to bring you the opportunity for additional online trainings the following week. You'll be able to sign up for courses on "Indigenous Planning, Community Assets, and Brownfields"; "Environmental Health and Land Reuse" with staff from Tribes and ATSDR; and a very innovative course covering Tribal law and sovereignty by long time TLEF participant Richard DuBey and his colleagues at Ogden Murphy Wallace PLLC.
- 2. Sign Up Now to Host a TLEF Virtual Exhibitor Booth! Tribal representatives, agencies, and non-profit organizations are encouraged to share their research, successes, and/or services with Tribal Lands and Environment Forum: Virtual Gathering (TLEF:VG) participants by hosting a virtual booth at the Multi-Media Meetup (MMM) on Wednesday, August 19 from 12-2pm PDT. Just as during our in person event, the MMM continues to be a networking opportunity to share information and interact with TLEF:VG attendees in an informal, exhibit-style atmosphere. Virtual booths should offer ideas that present unique projects, original research, special studies or resources and services related to solid waste, hazardous waste, brownfields, Superfund, UST/LUST, emergency management/response, and crossmedia topics. Your virtual booth will be visible to all TLEF:VG participants from August 17 through August 20, with opportunities for them to set up meetings with you throughout the week and visit you live via a Zoom room on Wednesday afternoon. At least two staff are highly recommended to attend the MMM session from 12-2pm PDT on August 19 for engaging with participants. To be a part of this year's

MMM, you will create a virtual booth that includes your tribal department/organization/agency name, logo, description of your project/research/services and pictures and biographies of the people that will be staffing the booth. You can upload polls for your visitors, add search tags, brochures/documents, and links to websites and videos. Additionally, you will be able to see who visited your booth throughout the week. See https://vimeo.com/434850587 for an overview of the Pathable Exhibitor Booth and ITEP will provide instructions for uploading information to your virtual booth prior to August 1. Virtual Booth sign-ups are due July 31, but space is limited, so reserve your booth today by filling out the MMM form at https://titleFVirtualBooth2020.

Emergency Response

- 3. Introduction to Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Regulation (SPCC) Webinar for Tribes July 21, 2020, 2 PM EDT. This webinar will acquaint participants with the tools and resources available to assist tribes in understanding the scope and implementation of the SPCC regulations for above ground storage of oil, the EPA inspection process, spill notification and response. The instructional material will acquaint participants with the tools and resources available to assist tribal environmental programs, elected government officials, and tribal members in understanding the scope and implementation of the EPA Oil Program and SPCC regulation and discuss the EPA inspection process. Register here.
- 4. **SERC/TERC Monthly Updates Newsletter** EPA is transitioning to a new email newsletter system. As a result, all current subscribers must opt-in to continue to receive updates. If you do not sign up to continue to receive the SERC-TERC Monthly Updates, you will no longer receive these emails, beginning with the August 2020 Edition. Please sign up today by filling out this form: https://www.epa.gov/epcra/serc-terc-monthly-updates.
- 5. On-line training: EPCRA Training for States, Tribes, LEPCs, Local Planners and Responders (Non-Section 313) This training describes the requirements of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). It provides the implementing regulations and guidance for agencies to fulfill the responsibilities prescribed in the law, and prepares them to provide compliance assistance to facilities. To access the on-line training, <u>click here</u>. Participants will learn:
 - a. The history of EPCRA;
 - b. The requirements for state, tribal, and local agencies to prepare and protect the community from chemical emergencies;
 - c. The requirements for industry to report the storage and releases of certain chemicals; and
 - d. The release reporting requirements under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) as they relate to the EPCRA emergency release reporting requirements.
- 6. NASTTPO 2020 Mid-Year Meeting; October 19-21, 2020; Houston, TX; possibly virtually The National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) is made up of members and staff of State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs), Tribal Emergency Response Commissions (TERCs), Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), various federal agencies and private industry. Members include state, tribal or local government employees with Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (EPCRA) program responsibilities, such as health, occupational safety, first response, environmental, and emergency management agencies. The website https://nasttpo.com/ will be updated as information is available.

Superfund

- 7. **2020-2021 Small Business Innovation Research Open Solicitation** The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, is seeking proposals from the small business community to develop novel environmental technologies in the multiple areas such as Land Revitalization Innovative technologies that destroy PFAS in soil, sediment, water and groundwater. This solicitation will be open to submissions until August 28, 2020. For more information, see http://www.epa.gov/sbir/sbir-funding-opportunities.
- 8. Most Common Game Animals in the US and Information on Intakes, Habitation, Hunt Frequency, and Human Consumption July 13, 2020, 3:00 PM-4:30 PM EDT (19:00-20:30 GMT). This webinar will

describe the process and results from a research project, completed through an internship with the US EPA, concerning an issues that arises when assessing risks from contamination at Superfund sites. This research project analyzed what are the most common game animals for hunting and fishing in the US, and their respective intakes (fodder or prey, water ingestion, and soil ingestion) and information on human ingestion rates by persons hunting or fishing. A summary of this effort along with the resulting paper will be highlighted in this webinar. For more information and to register, see https://clu-in.org/live.

- Power and Pollinators: Pollinator-Friendly Landscapes for Solar Facilities July 15, 2020, 1:00PM-2:30PM EDT (17:00-18:30 GMT). Are you interested in learning how to beautify your solar site and promote pollinator habitat? The Power and Pollinators webinar will examine how planting for pollinators on RE-Powering sites benefits cleaning up contaminated sites while beautifying communities. Planting for pollinators can help protect caps, control runoff, and provide habitat for struggling pollinator communities. The webinar explores the relationship between solar installations, contaminated lands and landfills, and pollinators. The Commonwealth of Virginia will discuss how the solar power industry has an extraordinary opportunity to impact the landscape by encouraging native plants at solar facilities. Solar facilities located on brownfields, landfills and other contaminated lands present a unique opportunity to benefit the local community by cleaning up the property and redeveloping the site according to the community's goals. The Commonwealth will highlight the Virginia Pollinator-Smart Solar Program which is designed to provide incentives and tools for solar industry to adopt a native plant strategy to meet soil and water control regulations, community needs, and the needs of our biosphere. Consultants VHB and Fresh Energy will share their knowledge and expertise of this growing trend and benefits to communities, developers and pollinators. EPA will present case studies and expertise related to renewable energy on underutilized lands. For more information and to register, see https://clu-in.org/live.
- 10. **PFAS Fate, Transport and Treatment** July 23, 2020, 12:00PM EDT (16:00 GMT). SERDP and ESTCP will host this webinar on approaches to better characterize PFAS fate and transport in the subsurface, as well as a novel technology for PFAS treatment. First, Dr. Linda M. Abriola (Tufts University) will discuss experimental, mathematical modeling and decision tool development efforts to better understand the processes controlling PFAS fate and transport in the subsurface. Second, Dr. Timothy Strathmann (Colorado School of Mines) will summarize his research efforts to develop a novel technology to treat PFAS in water and other high moisture content wastes. For more information and to register, see please visit https://serdp-estcp.org/Tools-and-Training/Webinar-Series/07-23-2020.
- 11. Collaborating with Colleges and Universities for Redevelopment Opportunities July 29, 2020, 2:00PM-3:30PM EDT (18:00-19:30 GMT). The College/Underserved Community Partnership Program (CUPP) provides a creative approach by partnering and delivering technical assistance from local colleges and universities to small underserved communities at no cost to the communities. EPA Region 4 has successfully collaborated with colleges and universities to assist communities in pursuing redevelopment opportunities and plans at sites in the Region. This webinar will share best practices and lessons learned as well as share the perspectives of the partnered colleges and universities. For more information and to register, see https://clu-in.org/live.
- 12. **Federal Facilities Online Academy, August 3 & September 14, 2020 -** This voluntary training program has been developed for EPA RPMs, project managers from other federal agencies, State government, and Tribal groups who work on federal facility Superfund cleanups. Please consider participating in all 12 courses, 11 Webinars and 1 In-Person Training, to obtain a certificate upon completion of the entire Federal Facility Academy series. For more information and to register for upcoming sessions or view archived sessions, see https://trainex.org/offeringslist.cfm?courseid=1819.

Solid/Hazardous Waste

13. Online Training Course: Developing Small-Scale Transfer Stations on Tribal Lands - EPA is offering a free online training course "Developing Small-Scale Solid Waste Transfer Stations on Tribal Lands." The course will consist of four real-time, interactive webinars. It will be held 10 am - 12 pm (PDT) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from July 28-August 6, 2020. Instructor: Larry Sweetser, with over 30 years of experience resolving solid and household hazardous waste program issues and specializing in assisting

California rural counties. This training course is organized by EPA Regions 9 & 10, with the support of Booz Allen Hamilton. Dates & Times: 10am – 12pm PDT, Tuesday, July 28, Thursday, July 30, Tuesday, August 4, Thursday, August 6. Audience: Course participants must be employees of Federally Recognized Tribes or Tribal Consortia. This course is intended for environmental directors, public utilities directors and staff, and solid waste program directors and technicians. Multiple staff from the same organization are encouraged to participate. Registration: Space is limited to foster more interaction and discussion. It is available on a first come, first serve basis for those who fully answer the registration questions. Participants are asked to commit to attending all four sessions. Those who complete the course will receive a certificate of completion for the training. Click here to register:

http://www.cvent.com/d/57qmp0. Questions: Contact Jenny Stephenson at stephenson.jenny@epa.gov. Training Objectives:

- a. Evaluate different options for transfer stations or community convenience areas/drop-off sites serving smaller populations
- b. Right size a transfer facility for your needs with interactive discussions
- c. Understand siting concerns and resource needs for conceptual design, site preparation, construction, and operation of small transfer stations or community drop-off sites
- 14. Waste Assessment Training for Tribes EPA is excited to announce a new webinar highlighting best practices for conducting assessments of the waste that is being thrown out in your community. This webinar is open to all tribal representatives. The training will be held as a 2-day webinar of four hours each on August 3- 4, 2020. Understanding the type and amount of waste that is being disposed of in your area is a vitally important topic to enable you to protect the health of your community and environment. This information will provide ways to improve current waste management methods, reduce waste, refine collection processes, reduce costs, and collect metrics to build and improve your solid waste program. Training topics include analysis of waste streams, methods for planning and conducting a waste sort, collecting metrics and interpreting results, updating waste management collection and disposal systems, and funding and assistance resources. Who Should Attend? Tribal Environmental Directors, Tribal Response Professionals, Utilities and Solid Waste staff. To register, please visit the following link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/667544703316212240. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Blackburn at blackburn.lizi@epa.gov or 913-551-7899.

Listservs and Newsletters

- 15. **EPA's Contaminated Site Cleanup Information (CLU-IN) website and newsletter** provides information about innovative treatment and site characterization technologies while acting as a forum for all waste remediation stakeholders. Check out the site: https://clu-in.org/techdirect/.

 https://clu-in.org/techdirect/.
- 16. **ORCR SMM listserv** Join to get webinar announcements and updates. To subscribe, fill out the form here: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/TQZ64SH/smm.
- 17. **ORCR Solid and Hazardous Waste listserv** Join to receive updates from EPA. To sign up, fill out the form here: https://lp.constantcontact.com/su/HcXGiWT/solidhaz.
- 18. **SERC/TERC Monthly Updates newsletter -** The purpose of the SERC-TERC Updates is to identify and share new policies, guidance, and training resources that may be useful to the State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs) and Tribal Emergency Response Commissions (TERCs). To subscribe, fill out the form here: https://www.epa.gov/epcra/serc-terc-monthly-updates.

Coronavirus

19. EPA approves first surface disinfectant products tested on the SARS-CoV-2 virus - Throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency, the EPA has worked to provide the American public with information about how to safely and effectively kill the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, on surfaces. Last week, EPA approved two products, Lysol Disinfectant Spray (EPA Reg No. 777-99) and Lysol Disinfectant Max Cover Mist (EPA Reg No. 777-127), based on laboratory testing that shows they have now been tested directly against SARS-CoV-2. All products on EPA's List N meet the agency's criteria for effectiveness against SARS-CoV-2. When using an EPA-registered disinfectant, follow the label directions for safe, effective use. Make sure to follow the contact time, which is the amount of time the surface

- should be visibly wet. Read the agency's infographic on how to use these products. Additional information on EPA's coronavirus efforts: https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus.
- 20. COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for Field Activities (applicable to tribal inspectors operating with an EPA inspector credential) – EPA issues the final Interim consolidated Agency "COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for Field Activities." These Health and Safety (H&S) Guidelines for Field Activities provide safety and health protocols to assess and manage any COVID-19 exposure risk for our employees involved in field work, and are posted on the EPA website at: https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-documents-field-activities. EPA field staff and their supervisors in the Regions and programs should use these Guidelines to help them plan for and address COVID-19 risks to our staff, the public and facilities. The Guidelines include Appendix A for "Civil Inspections, On-site Compliance Monitoring, Compliance and Technical Assistance," Appendix B for "Conducting Superfund Site, RCRA Corrective Actions, Oil, and Emergency Response Work," and the COVID-19 Job Hazard Analysis/Job Safety Analysis Template. While these Guidelines are primarily directed at EPA field staff (including any inspectors from States and Tribes operating with an EPA inspector credential), you may share them with your States and Tribes, if they are interested. We are working on a webinar to provide an overview of the H&S Guidelines for Field Activities. While not required training, we recommend staff and field staff managers attend the webinar. The webinar will likely be offered several times in late July and August. If you have questions on the Guidelines, you may contact your local Safety Health and Environmental Management program (SHEMP).

National Issues

- 21. **Supreme Court decision on** *McGirt v. Oklahoma* **case** In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court says that for purposes of the Major Crimes Act, land throughout much of eastern Oklahoma reserved for the Creek Nation since the 19th century remains a Native American territory. For all you wonks out there, the SCOTUS blog has a whole page dedicated to this case, with opinion summaries, analysis, educational seminars, links to the full decision, and other excellent materials: https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/mcgirt-v-oklahoma/
- 22. Presidential Message on the 50th Anniversary of the Federal Policy of Indian Self-Determination <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/presidential-message-50th-anniversary-federal-policy-indian-self-determination/#:^:text=In%20his%20message%2C%20President%20Nixon,and%20respecting%20Tribal %20decision%2Dmaking.

Other Program Areas

- 23. National Tribal Water Council June 2020 Newsletter (see attached)
- 24. National Tribal Water Program Updates E-Newsletter July 2020 To access, click here.
- 25. Native Voices June 2020 Newsletter (see attached)
- 26. Webinar Keys to Success: Water Recycling in Tribal Communities July 15, 2020, 1:00-3:00 PM (Eastern), 10:00-Noon (Pacific). Interested in developing a water recycling project? Not sure what it involves? This training is for you! This free training webinar will help tribes learn what it takes to be successful in developing and implementing wastewater reuse and stormwater capture and use projects. The training is a product of the recently issued national Water Reuse Action Plan (Action 2.2.15: Conduct Outreach and Training with Tribes to Build Water Reuse Capacity). Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3743473562177610254. Telephone Number: (562) 247-8422. Access Code (for attendees only): 499-719-634. You'll need to register to join the computer portion of our meeting anyway, and this will simply help ensure we get the presentation to attendees before the meeting. If you have questions, please contact Dave Smith at smith.davidw@epa.gov or (415) 238-4139. We look forward to seeing you! This interactive training will be presented by:
 - a. Dr. Bruce Macler (US Environmental Protection Agency, Pacific Southwest Region)
 - b. John Flores (Director, Environmental Dept., San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians)

- c. Dave Smith (US EPA, Water Reuse Action Plan Development Team) Among the issues we'll address are:
 - d. Why should tribes recycle water?
 - e. How can wastewater be recycled, and how can stormwater be captured for use?
 - f. How have tribes already had success with reuse projects?
 - g. How do we ensure reuse protects human health and water resources?
 - h. What are the key steps in developing and implementing successful reuse projects?
 - i. What support do tribes need to help pursue water reuse projects?
- 27. 2020 ECOS STEP Meeting: Partnering on PFAS July 29 and 30, 12:30-4:45 p.m. Eastern. ECOS invites you to attend the 2020 ECOS State Environmental Protection (STEP) Meeting, Partnering on PFAS! The virtual policy summit, planned for July 29 and 30, will feature panels and lightning round presentations on an array of PFAS topics, culminating in moderated breakout discussions to maximize audience participation. See the draft agenda, registration, and additional details here: https://www.ecos.org/event/2020-state-environmental-protection-step-meeting-partnering-on-pfas/. Note: ECOS will distribute Zoom Meeting information to registered participants ahead of the meeting. Registration is non-refundable.
- 28. **EE2020** Webinar on Machine Learning & Predictive Analytics Date: July 9, 2020, Time: 1:00-2:30 PM Eastern. Register: https://www.eenationalmeeting.net/july-2020. The July 9 webinar will focus on applications for machine learning and predictive analytics in environmental protection. Visit the website to register and to find a more detailed agenda and information on our featured speakers. For registration questions, please email: krakouskas@ecos.org. The webinar will include:
 - a. Information about the basics of machine learning and predictive analytics;
 - b. Case studies in using predictive analytics to help agencies target resources for environmental inspections where they can do the most good; and
 - c. An interactive discussion on machine learning, implementation challenges, use cases, and collaborative development opportunities for the environmental protection community.

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EPA is listing them for your information only and is not responsible for the content of the websites/articles or the information at a non-EPA listed event.

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Subject: OLEM Tribal Friday News Roundup - Weeks of June 29-July 10

Attachments: NTWC Newsletter June 2020.pdf; Native Voices Newsletter June 2020.pdf; AIEO Weekly July 2 - July 8, 2020

Hello all

I hope you enjoy this edition of the OLEM Tribal Friday News Roundup, covering announcements from the past two weeks. Please feel free to share with your Regional and tribal colleagues. Note the two internal items for EPA staff only.

Have a great weekend!

Today's Friday News Roundup Includes Information on:

- 1. Registration Open for the TLEF: A Virtual Gathering!
- 2. Sign Up Now to Host a TLEF Virtual Exhibitor Booth!
- 3. Introduction to Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Regulation (SPCC) Webinar for Tribes
- 4. <u>SERC/TERC Monthly Updates Newsletter</u>
- 5. On-line training: EPCRA Training for States, Tribes, LEPCs, Local Planners and Responders (Non-Section 313)
- 6. NASTTPO 2020 Mid-Year Meeting; October 19-21, 2020; Houston, TX; possibly virtually
- 7. 2020-2021 Small Business Innovation Research Open Solicitation
- 8. <u>Most Common Game Animals in the US and Information on Intakes, Habitation, Hunt Frequency, and Human Consumption</u>
- 9. Power and Pollinators: Pollinator-Friendly Landscapes for Solar Facilities
- 10. PFAS Fate, Transport and Treatment
- 11. Collaborating with Colleges and Universities for Redevelopment Opportunities
- 12. Federal Facilities Online Academy, August 3 & September 14, 2020
- 13. Online Training Course: Developing Small-Scale Transfer Stations on Tribal Lands
- 14. Waste Assessment Training for Tribes
- 15. EPA's Contaminated Site Cleanup Information (CLU-IN) website and newsletter
- 16. ORCR SMM listserv
- 17. ORCR Solid and Hazardous Waste listserv
- 18. SERC/TERC Monthly Updates newsletter
- 19. EPA approves first surface disinfectant products tested on the SARS-CoV-2 virus
- 20. <u>COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for Field Activities (applicable to tribal inspectors operating with an EPA inspector credentials)</u>
- 21. Supreme Court decision on McGirt v. Oklahoma case
- 22. Presidential Message on the 50th Anniversary of the Federal Policy of Indian Self-Determination
- 23. AIEO Weekly June 25 July 1, 2020 INTERNAL EPA ONLY